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MR. J. DOUGLAS WETMORE,
Member of the City Council, Jacksonville, Fla.

COLORED ALDERMEN BRAVE.

The Jacksonville Carnival Committee Ignore Colored Members of the City Council—Lawyer Wetmore Denounces the Committee for Its Narrowness and Prejudice.

Editor of THE COLORED AMERICAN:

Dear Sir:—I have seen in the papers a great many statements made by Northern Negroes to the effect that Negroes in the South were "cowards," "trimmers," and "ultra-conservative," and it gives me pleasure to write you of a recent instance of a Negro in the South being "game" to the backbone, and I trust you will be kind enough to publish the letter.

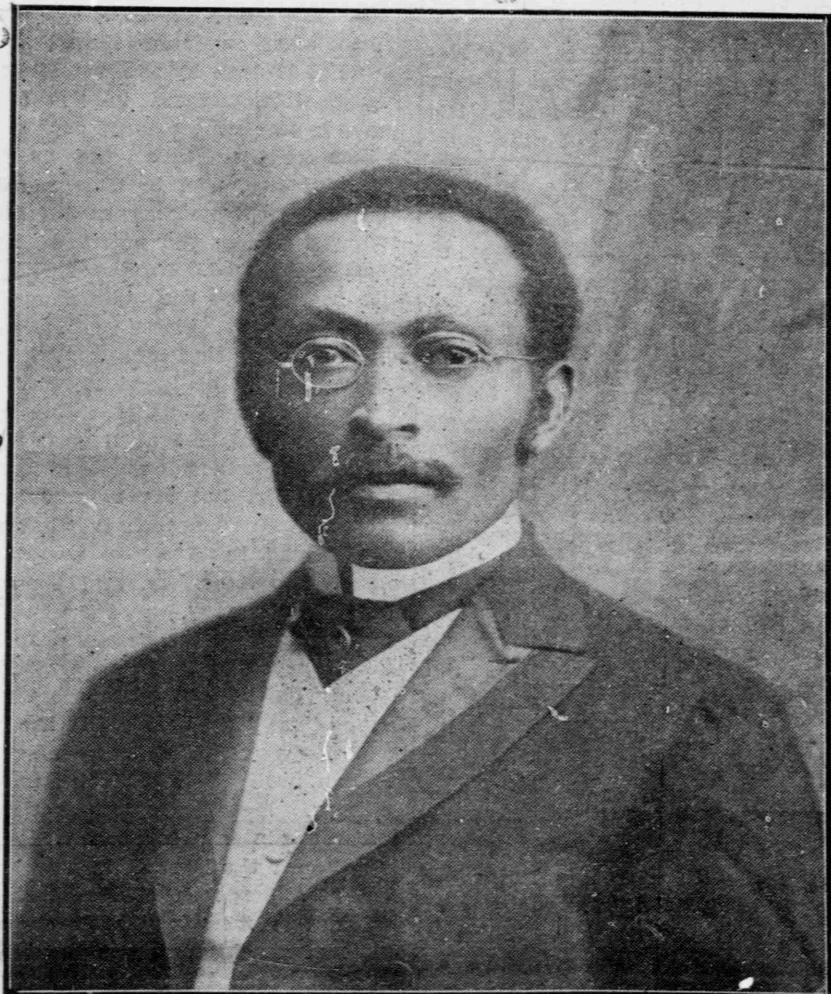
This is Carnival week in Jacksonville, and there are thousands of strangers in the city. The papers announced that on Monday evening, November 2, the King and Queen of the Carnival

would enter the city and parade through the principal streets, accompanied by the city officials. The parade, as announced, did take place, but two city officials were conspicuous by their absence; and these two officials were J. Douglas Wetmore and George E. Ross, Negro councilmen (aldermen) of the Sixth ward. The Carnival committee invited all of the other city officials to participate in the parade, and furnished automobiles for the use of the councilmen, but "forgot" (?) to invite the two Negro Councilmen. The Carnival committee also mailed a complimentary ticket to each councilman, giving each of them the right to go in the Carnival grounds and all the shows therein free of charge. The city council met on Tuesday evening, November 3, and I was present and heard J. Douglas Wetmore make the following remarks in reference to the Carnival committee:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council: The editors of the *Times-Union* and *Metropolis* are members of the Carnival Committee, and therefore it is impossible for me to pay my respects to said committee through the columns of either of the daily papers, and you will pardon me, I know, for taking this occasion to pay my respects to said committee. I have been a member of this honorable body for nearly three years, and a number of you gentlemen served two years with me in the old council; and I believe none of you will or can dispute me when I say that my record in this council is clean, and that I have always been identified with the progressive element of this body. During our association as fellow members in this council I have never invited any of you to my residence and have never received an invitation to any of your homes, nor have I expected it. I do not be-

lieve any of you have been contaminated by your association with me in this council, and I know that the question of social equality has never come up between us. I want to say to you, gentlemen, that this "social equality" bugbear has been the excuse of a great many outrages committed in the South. I feel that the Carnival Committee has insulted me as well as my colleague. The papers announced that the city officials would participate in the parade last night, and the Carnival Committee invited all of the members of this council except Mr. Ross and myself; and I presume for this excuse for insulting us in this manner would be, that they feared it would look as if they believed in "social equality" of the races. Gentlemen, it was an exhibition of contemptible, mean, petty, nar-

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